

(7) CLAIMS

(1) An inter-convertible single person type transporting aid (10) comprising a multi directionally propellable wheeled carrier facility (12) that is formable by a user into a variety of conditions of use

5 characterised in that the aid is without at least substantial external aid if at all inter-convertible between at least two of

a walk support providing condition in which the carrier facility (12), serving as walk supporter (38), provides for a user to be positioned within a conventionally walker fashion extending semi enclosing frame (44) forming part of the facility (12) in the appropriate case involving the
10 latter's suitable re-adjustment,

a sitting transporter type condition, in serving as a sitting transporter (40), on appropriate manipulation relative to if not fitting of at least part of a seat arrangement (50) to the carrier facility (12) in the appropriate case also involving the latter's suitable re-adjustment, and
15 where the carrier facility (12) is fitted with user controllable powerable propulsion means (16) arranged to drive the aid (10) via a drive wheel arrangement (14), a standing transporter providing condition, in serving as a standing transporter (42), that involves the appropriate removable positioning of a standing base (76) relative to the carrier facility (12) and the use of the semi enclosing frame (44) with the propulsion means (16) in such case also being employable for propelling the aid when in its sitting transporter providing condition.

20 (2) A transporting aid as claimed in claim 1 in which the carrier facility (12) is arranged to cause its sitting transporter providing condition, as thus formable, on the one hand, and its walk support or its standing transporter providing conditions, into whichever of these conditions formable if not to both, on the other hand, to face in opposite directions.

(3) A transporting aid as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which the drive wheel arrangement
25 (14), as thus forming part of the carrier facility (12), is in the form of laterally spaced independently to and fro drivable drive wheels that are suitably positioned relative to the remainder of the carrier facility (12) to also enable rotation of the aid (10), at least when in its sitting transporter or standing transporter providing condition, into the at least one of whichever conditions the carrier facility (12) is formable, about a substantially centrally
30 extending upright axis (34).

(4) A transporting aid as claimed in claim 3 in which the drive wheels (14) are constrainable against rolling for serving a braking effect against free rolling of the aid (10) to whichever condition it is inter-converted.

5 (5) A transporting aid as claimed in claim 4 in which the carrier facility (12), as being formed with the semi-enclosed frame (44), incorporates a drive wheel carrying user accommodating part (20) that is arranged to at least one of holding the seat arrangement (50) when the aid is in its sitting transporter providing condition and at least partly serving for mounting the standing base (76) once the aid (10) is inter-converted into its standing transporter providing condition, to whichever condition the aid is inter-convertible if not to both, and a wheeled
10 base frame (22), to which the user accommodating part (20) is displaceably mounted while being biased by biasing means relative to the base frame (22) to a condition of drive wheel disengagement from a rolling base onto which the aid is situated once in use, the drive wheels (14) thus being urged to come into rolling engagement with such rolling base, enabling the powerable propulsion of the aid when in its appropriate condition, once the user
15 accommodating part (20) is exposed to a downward exerted force as brought about once the aid (10) as appropriately converted is in occupied, controlling of the free rolling motion of the aid once in its walk support providing condition, when so inter-convertible, being achieved by a user urging the drive wheels (14), once constrained against free rolling, to come into braking contact with a rolling base in response to the manual exertion of a downward force on
20 the user accommodating part via the semi enclosing frame (44).

(6) A transporting aid as claimed in claim 5 in which the user accommodating part (20) engages releasably with the wheeled base frame (22) enabling the collapsing of the carrier facility (12) and thus the transporting aid.

25 (7) A transporting aid as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 in which the user accommodating part (20) engages with the wheeled base frame (22) via laterally extending drive wheel carrying arms (26) that each passes snugly displaceably along base frame presented sleeves (28) and to the bottom ends of which arms (26) the drive wheels (14) are respectively mounted.

(8) A transporting aid as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7 that is multi-directionally propellable via castor wheels (26) at least one of each being positioned at the outer corners
30 of the wheeled base frame (22) as correspondingly formed, the drive wheels (14) thus being situated intermediate front and rear castor wheels (26) found along each side of the wheeled base frame (22).

(9) A transporting aid as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8 in which the semi-enclosing frame (44) is in the form of a transverse gripping handle providing frame member (46) extending into upper end arms (48) integrally incorporated in the user accommodating part (20), the gripping handle providing frame member (46) also being employed for securing a backrest portion (70) of the seat arrangement (50) once the aid is in its sitting transporter providing condition, as thus inter-convertible.

(10) A transporting aid as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 9 in which the seat arrangement (50) includes a support grid (54) supporting a seat base (68) with the former being releasably secured to the user accommodating part (20) once the aid is in its sitting transporter providing condition, removal of the support grid (54) and seat base (68) and in the appropriate case further re-adjustment of the carrier facility (12) thus enabling access of a user to the semi enclosing frame (44) for using the aid as the walk supporter (38) or as a standing transporter (42), into whichever condition the aid is inter-convertible if not to both.

(11) A transporting aid as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 9 in which the seat arrangement (50) includes a seat base (68) that is swivellably secured to the user accommodating part (20) thus being displaceable between a seat base providing condition and a stored condition.

(12) A transporting aid as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 11 in which the standing base (76), as involved in inter-converting the aid (12) into the standing transporter (42), when so constituted, is formed to extend at least partly intermediate the base frame (22) while at least engaging with supports forming part of the user accommodating part (20) to cause its downward urging into drive wheel to rolling base engagement once the aid, as inter-converted for use as a standing transporter, is occupied.

(13) A transporting aid as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 12 that comprises the carrier facility (12) incorporating the powerable propulsive drive wheel arrangement (14) and that is constituted to be formed into the walk supporter (38), the sitting transporter (40) and the standing transporter (42), in the appropriate case requiring relevant supplementation.

(14) A sitting transporter type transporting aid set assemblable into an inter-convertible single person type transporting aid comprising

a multi directionally propellable wheeled carrier facility (12) that is formable into a walk support providing condition aid via the introduction of only minor adjustment to the facility, if at all, and in which condition the carrier facility (12) is constituted to result in a user being positioned within a semi enclosing frame (44), as suitably integrated into the remainder of the facility (12), extending conventional walker fashion relative to such user, and at least one of

a seating arrangement (50) of which at least part is releasably securable to the carrier facility in forming it into a sitting transporter type condition while in the appropriate case involving the suitable re-adjustment of the carrier facility (12), and

in the case of the carrier facility being fitted with powerable propulsion means (16) enabling its powered propulsion via a drive wheel arrangement (14), a standing base (76) that is releasable securable to the carrier facility (12) in forming it into a standing transporter providing condition aid, also in the appropriate case requiring re-adjustment of the carrier facility (12).

(15) A transporting aid set as claimed in claim 14 in which the carrier facility (12) is arranged to cause its sitting transporter type condition, as thus formable into, on the one hand, and its walk support or its standing transporter providing conditions, to whichever of these conditions formable into if not to both, on the other hand, to face in opposite directions once an aid is constituted from the set.

(16) A transporting aid set as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15 in which the drive wheel arrangement (14), as thus forming part of the carrier facility (12), is in the form of laterally spaced independently to and fro drivable drive wheels that are suitably positioned relative to the remainder of the carrier facility (12) to also enable rotation of an aid (10) once constituted from the set, at least when in its sitting transporter type or standing transporter providing conditions, to the at least one of whichever conditions the carrier facility (12) is formable into, about a substantially centrally extending upright axis (34).

(17) A transporting aid set as claimed in claim 16 in which the drive wheels (14) are constrainable against rolling for serving a braking effect against free rolling of an aid constituted from the set to whichever condition it is converted.

(18) A transporting aid set as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17 in which the carrier facility (12), as being formed with the semi-enclosed frame (44), incorporates a drive wheel carrying user accommodating part (20) that is arranged to at least one of holding the seat arrangement (50) for forming the facility (12) to a sitting transporter providing aid and at least partly serving for mounting the standing base (76) for forming into a standing transporter providing aid, into whichever condition formable if not to both, and a wheeled base frame (22), to which the user accommodating part (20) is displaceably mounted while being biased by biasing means relative to the base frame (22) to a condition of drive wheel disengagement from a rolling base onto which an aid as constituted from the set is situated once in use, the drive wheels (14) thus being urged to come into rolling engagement with such rolling base, enabling the

powerable propulsion of such aid when in its appropriate condition, once the user accommodating part (20) is exposed to a downwardly exerted force as brought about once such aid (10) as appropriately inter-converted is occupied, controlling of the free rolling motion of such aid, once in its walk support providing condition, when so inter-convertible, being achieved by a user urging the drive wheels (14), once constrained against free rolling, to come into braking contact with a rolling base in response to the manual exertion of a downward force on the user accommodating part via the semi enclosing frame (44).

(19) A transporting aid set as claimed in claim 17 or claim 18 in which the user accommodating part (20) engages with the wheeled base frame (22) via laterally extending drive wheel carrying arms (26) that each passes snugly displaceably along base frame presented sleeves (28) and to the bottom ends of which arms (26) the drive wheels (14) are respectively mounted.

(20) A transporting aid set as claimed in claim 18 or claim 19 in which the carrier facility (12) is multi-directionally propellable via castor wheels (26) at least one of each being positioned at the outer corners of the wheeled base frame (22) as correspondingly formed, the drive wheels (14) thus being situated intermediate front and rear castor wheels (26) found along each side of the wheeled base frame (22).

(21) A transporting aid set as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20 in which the semi-enclosing frame (44) is in the form of a transverse gripping handle providing frame member extending into upper end arms (48) integrally incorporated in the user accommodating part (20), the gripping handle providing frame member also being employable for securing a backrest portion (70) of the seat arrangement (50) on assembling an aid from the set, as thus convertible, into its sitting transporter providing condition.

(22) A transporting aid set as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 20 in which the seating arrangement (50) includes a seat base support grid (54) that is securable to the user accommodating part (20) and to which a seat base (68) also forming part of the seat arrangement (50) is securable for conventional use of an aid as constituted from the set to its sitting transporter providing condition.

(23) A transporting aid set as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 22 in which the standing base (76) is formed to extend at least partly intermediate the base frame (22), once operatively fitted, while at least engaging with supports forming part of the user accommodating part (20) to cause its downward urging into drive wheel to rolling base

engagement once an aid as constituted from the set and as converted for use as a standing transporter, is occupied.

(24) A transporting aid set as claimed in claim 18 to 23 in which the user accommodating part (20) and the wheeled base frame (22) are releasably engageable each thus forming a
5 separate part of the set.